

REMARKS

Attorney for Applicant has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified application. Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the references of record.

U.S. Patent No. 5,095,722 to Chapmond, et al. discloses a kayak and similarly shaped object locking device which has a second loop interconnectable at a single specific location with the second end of the strap. The second end of the strap is interconnected with the fixed location, which comprises loop 14, by lock 18. Chapmond, et al. does not teach or suggest interconnecting a second loop at one of a plurality of locations **along** the second end of the strap as claimed in amended claim 1. Those plurality of locations are identified in FIG. 2 by apertures 32. Because claim 1 is patentable over the references of record, claims 2-4 which depend therefrom are likewise patentable.

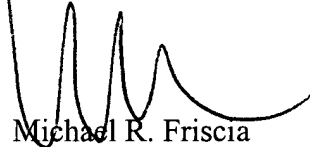
Applicant has also amended claim 5 to rectify the inconsistency wherein the claim refers to the word “device” instead of the word “apparatus.”

Applicant notes that claims 5-26 have been allowed.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the references of record. All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be addressed. No new matter is believed to have been added. Re-examination is requested and favorable action solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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